



Department of
Natural Resources and Environmental Science
University of Nevada, Reno

May 7, 2019

Effectiveness Monitoring Review Panel
Board of Forestry, State of California
California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
P.O. Box 944246
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

CC: Brandi Goss, Environmental Scientist

Dear Member of the Review Panel:

I am writing to submit my application for membership as an academic advisor to the State of California Board of Forestry, filling an open vacancy for the next two-year term. I am currently an Assistant Professor of Forest Ecosystem Science in the Department of Natural Resources & Environmental Science (NRES) at The University of Nevada – Reno (UNR). Prior to my current position, I was an Assistant Professor of Forest Ecology & Silviculture at California Polytechnic State University (Cal Poly). I earned my PhD in Ecology from Colorado State University in August 2013 and hold a B.S. and M.S. in Forestry from the University of Montana. My primary areas of specialization are forest ecology and silviculture, and my research evaluates forest compositional and structural responses to silvicultural treatment, interacting disturbances, and ongoing climate change. I am particularly interested in how species' adaptations shape the forest community, stand dynamics, and associated ecosystem services.

I am a qualified candidate due to not only my academic background but also my familiarity with the California Forest Practices Rules and my position as a PI on a Sierra Nevada-wide adaptive management experiment. My familiarity with the California Forest Practices Rules comes from my tenure as a forestry professor at Cal Poly. During that time, I taught the Forest Practices class, which was an in-depth look at both forest operations and the California Forest Practice Rules. This course provided students with the knowledge essential for development of forest management plans, silvicultural prescriptions, and timber harvest plans in the state of California and beyond. Upon my departure from Cal Poly, my position shifted toward a research focus, providing the time and resources to build a silvicultural research program. Networking across the California silviculture community led to the development of a large-scale, interagency silvicultural experiment that is a collaboration with the University of California - Berkeley, CAL FIRE, and the USDA Pacific Southwest Research Station. As part of this experiment, we are developing timber harvest plans and making sure that all participating agencies are in environmental compliance.

Finally, I am trained as an ecologist and forester, but I have experience in wetland ecology, hydrology, forest genetics, and long-term monitoring programs. I believe I am well suited to serve as an academic advisor to the Effectiveness Monitoring Review Panel.

Sincerely,

Dr. Sarah M. Bisbing

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